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1172

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. W. H. GODEL, MEMBER, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OCB WORKING GROUP ON OUTER SPACE

SUBJECT: (C) State Department Query on Reconnaissance Satellites

1. Reference your memorandum, subject as above, dated 16 October 1958. The Air Force considers neither the proposal contained in question one nor question two of your memorandum an acceptable course of action in relation to existing or planned satellite reconnaissance systems. The basic objective of a satellite reconnaissance system is to obtain intelligence information not obtainable with present systems from Soviet and Soviet-Bloc territories. It is believed the National Defense Posture would be jeopardized by any such disclosures.

2. It is considered feasible to develop an appropriate cover for such reconnaissance satellites. The extent of time that any cover plan for reconnaissance satellites will be credible is open to conjecture.

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ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 16, 1958

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ATTN: Col. T. A. Rogers, Room 3E495

THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (R&D)
ATTN: Cdr. Ronald Miller, Op-916L, Room 5D566

THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, R&D/D, USAF
ATTN: Major Henry Hounsel, Room 4E946

THE CHIEF, GUIDED MISSILE PLANS DIVISION, J-5, JCS
ATTN: Col. F. P. Henderson, Room 2D939

SUBJECT: State Department Query on Reconnaissance Satellites (c)

At a meeting of the Operations Coordinating Board Working Group on Outer Space held on Wednesday afternoon, October 15, the State Department member requested answers to the following questions:

1. Could the U.S. national security objectives sought through launching reconnaissance satellites cited in paragraphs 21-23 of NSC 5814/1 be achieved if the satellites were made a part of a multilateral inspection system under U.N. auspices?

2. Could such objectives be achieved if the U.S. were to pass all information received from such satellites to the U.N.?

In addition, the OCB Working Group has requested a reply to the following problem:

1. What is the feasibility of developing an appropriate cover for such reconnaissance satellites?

Your comments, however informal, are requested by 1600, Friday, October 17, for inclusion in preparation of the Department of Defense reply which the ARPA member will present to the Working Group at its meeting next week.

It further is requested that your comments be coordinated with Plans, Intelligence and such other agencies as have staff participation in NSC-OCB affairs.

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Member, Dept. of Defense
OCB Working Group
on Outer Space

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